

Washington Prayer
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Washington's Prayer
for the
United States
of
America

HISTORY OF WASHINGTON'S PRAYER *for the* UNITED STATES of AMERICA

While at Newburg, New York, Washington wrote a letter to the Governors of all the States. The one reproduced here was dated June 11, 1783. In the letter Washington said in closing, "I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in his holy protection, that he would incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to Government, to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another, for their fellow-citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field, and finally, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do Justice, to love Mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a Happy Nation."

I selected this prayer as the altar prayer of the Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge. The Hon. Roland S. Morris, late Ambassador to Japan, saw a copy of this prayer on the desk of the Chapel architect, the late Milton B. Medary, Jr. He took a copy with him to the meeting of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which took Washington's account of the Prayer, as given above, and put it in prayer form for use of the American people. It added the title "Almighty" to God as this was a common form in Washington's Prayer Book and was familiar to him in his worship as were the words "through Jesus Christ our Lord."



to be usefull to his Country, and who, even in
the shade of retirement, will not fail to im=
-plore the Divine benediction upon it. -

I now make it my earnest prayer, that
God would have you, and the State over which
you preside in his holy protection, - that he
would incline the hearts of the Citizens to
cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedi=
-ence to Government, - to entertain a brotherly
affection and love for one another, for their
fellow Citizens of the United States at large,
and particularly for their brethren who have
served in the Field, and finally, that he
would most graciously be pleased to dispose
us all to do Justice, to love mercy, and to de=
-mean ourselves with that charity, humility and
-pacific temper of mind; which were the Cha=
-racteristicks of the Divine Author of our blessed
Religion, and without an humble imitation
of whose example in these things, we can never
hope to be a Happy Nation. -

I have the honor to be
with great regard and esteem
Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

G. Washington



WASHINGTON AT PRAYER
AT VALLEY FORGE

WASHINGTON'S PRAYER
for the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that thou wilt keep the United States in thy holy protection; that thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow-citizens of the United States at large. And finally, that thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.